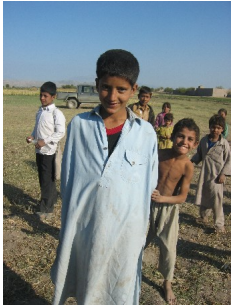


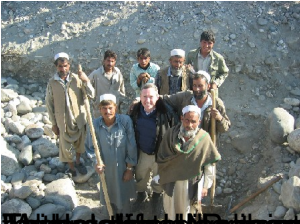
I spent the day just north of Tora Bora, Osama bin Laden's hideout in 2001. The area was a hotbed of terror where many terrorists from outside Afghanistan trained. Today I saw something different. Along all of the roads, I was struck by the number of children signaling us with a thumbs up. Keep reading for photos and more...



The people were uniformly nice and many said that the International Coalition's arrival in Afghanistan ended 30 years of war. Along a river bed, I met Dr. Steven Romanoff.



Dr. Romanoff is in charge of a US Agency for International Development (USAID) project that now employs 15,000 Afghans. They are building flood control levies and report that this project is the number one employer in an area that was once the headquarters of Al Qaeda terror. It was heartening to see and hear from dozens of Afghans in local villages and along the road.



The Taliban Need Not Apply | Congressman Mark Kirk – 10th District, Illinois